

A&H—GLB

Thomas J. Jarvis to W. L. Bragg

Executive Department
Raleigh, March 19th, 1881

There is no officer in this State authorized to act for the State in the matter referred to in your letter of the 15th ins't., nor have I the power to appoint one.

I agree with you that the question of transportation is getting to be of such vital importance to the people and their prosperity depends so much upon its proper adjustment, that it must be taken hold of and regulated by the law-making power.

I regret that, owing to the failure of our Legislature to act in the selection of a Railroad Commission,⁴⁵ North Carolina cannot be represented in a convention of the men charged with this important work.

A&H—GP

Circular ⁴⁶

Executive Department,
Raleigh, N. C., March 21st, 1881

The Legislature of the State, at its recent session, imposed upon the State Board of Education the duty of recommending a series of Text-Books to be used in the Public Schools of the State.

I deem this a matter about which our teachers throughout the State should be consulted, and their views as to the best series of Text-Books ascertained.

It is my desire that the Board shall adopt such books as will be satisfactory to the Teachers, and at the same time accomplish the best results for the children they instruct.

To enable the Board to choose wisely, as it is soon to meet, I respectfully ask that you will favor me with your opinion as to the comparative merits of the School Readers, Grammars, Geographies, Histories, Spellers, Arithmetics, Dictionaries and Copy Books with which you are acquainted.

⁴⁵In 1879 the state Senate passed a bill establishing a railroad commission, but it was defeated in the House. *House Journal*, 1879, 805.

⁴⁶This was a printed circular which Jarvis, as chairman of the Board of Education, sent to every educational institution in the state.